

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

HENRY G. CARTER, an individual,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	C.A. NO.
)	
INDEPENDENT PRODUCTIONS, INC.,)	JURY OF TWELVE DEMANDED
a Pennsylvania corporation, and)	
GEORGE THOROGOOD & THE)	
DESTROYERS, INC., a Pennsylvania)	
corporation,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Henry G. Carter (“Carter”) by his attorneys, for his complaint for breach of contract, a declaratory judgment setting forth the rights and obligations of the parties and an accounting, alleges as follows:

1. Plaintiff Carter is an individual residing in Delaware.
2. Defendant Independent Productions, Inc. (“IPI”) is a Pennsylvania corporation whose registered address is R.D. 1, Box 216, London Tract Road, Landenberg, Pennsylvania 19350.
3. Defendant George Thorogood & The Destroyers, Inc. (“GTDI”) is a Pennsylvania corporation whose registered address is R.D. 1, Box 216, London Tract Road, Landenberg, Pennsylvania 19350.

Jurisdiction and Venue

4. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) based upon the diversity of citizenship of the parties. The amount in controversy exceeds Seventy-Five

Thousand Dollars (\$75,000). The Court also has jurisdiction pursuant to the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a).

5. Venue is appropriate in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c).

The Facts

6. Carter is an accomplished musician and performer who plays numerous instruments including, *inter alia*, the saxophone, keyboards, guitar, trumpet and mandolin. Carter is also a capable vocalist and an accomplished musical arranger.

7. On or about July 4, 1979, Carter joined the rock and roll/blues band George Thorogood and the Delaware Destroyers (the “Band”).

8. The members of Band at that time were George Thorogood, Jeff Simon, and Bill Blough. They were, at all times pertinent herein, the other shareholders with Carter of IPI and GTDI.

9. When Carter joined the Band, it was commanding approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000 per live performance.

10. The fortunes of the Band changed dramatically during Carter’s tenure and the Band enjoyed significant commercial success. At the pinnacle of its performing career, the Band commanded live performance fees in the low six figures.

11. While Carter was a member of the Band, the Band released over 16 albums, many of which went gold, and some platinum.

12. The Band is an internationally acclaimed rock and roll/blues band that has been in the music business in various iterations for over thirty years. IPI recently released the career retrospective of the Band: *George Thorogood: 30 Years of Rock* (the “Album”). The Album has been certified gold by the RIAA and was named the No. 1 top blues album for 2005 by Billboard

Magazine. The Album has been a chart fixture since its May 2004 release holding the No. 1 spot for 42 weeks in 2005.

The Organizational Structure of the Band

13. In the early 1980's, the Band formed IPI to handle its newly-developed recording business and to, *inter alia*, insulate its recording revenue from potential liability exposure from the Band's touring activities. GTDI, which previously handled all Band activities, now handled only its performance, previously-existing recording contracts and touring businesses. Merchandising for the Band, including the sales of tee-shirts and other merchandise, was also handled by GTDI since about 1997.

14. Carter, at all times, held and holds an equity stake in IPI and shares royalty revenue from the recordings released by IPI. Each band member was entitled to a fixed share of royalty revenue from each recording. At all times, the percentage of royalty revenue paid to the Band members was based on whether a Band member appeared on a particular album, without regard to the number of songs the Band member played on the album. Even if a Band member appeared on only one song for a particular album, the Band member would still receive the agreed-upon royalty percentage. Unlike other members of the Band, Carter often contributed several instrumental pieces on particular tracks as well as contributing back up vocals.

15. Since the mid to late 1980's, Carter has been paid 20 percent of the net royalties generated by all record sales released under the auspices of IPI.

16. Carter is also an equity holder in GTDI. At all times during his tenure in the Band, Carter shared in profits attributable to the Band's touring operations, along with profits attributable to all other band-related operations. Such profits were distributed by GTDI. Carter

engaged in all business affairs of the corporation, attended semi-annual shareholder meetings, and even made capital outlays on several occasions.

17. Carter was involuntarily released from touring and recording activities of the Band but at all times, held, and still holds an interest in IPI and GTDI.

18. Subsequent to his release, Carter was and is entitled to receive touring revenue from GTDI in connection with the tours that Carter participated in and is entitled to be compensated for the goodwill he helped create for the Band during his two-decade tenure.

19. Subsequent to his release, Carter was and is entitled to receive recording royalties from IPI and GTDI in connection with the albums that Carter appeared on for records distributed by, *inter alia*, Rounder Records, EMI Records and Eagle Entertainment.

20. Subsequent to his release, Carter has received royalty payments from IPI that are sporadic and inexplicably reduced by a "management fee" assessed against the Band, even though Carter does not receive any management services, against the express representations of the Band's counsel that Carter's portion of recording royalties would not be expensed. Carter, despite requests, has also not been provided all royalty related sales data and contracts to ascertain whether he has, in fact, received his agreed-upon percentage of royalties.

21. On or about July 2003, Carter received his first recording royalty check from the Band since being released. Despite the Band's representations, Carter's share of the royalties was expensed a 17 percent% management fee, for services he no longer received.

22. On or about August 2005, Carter received his first royalty check from the Album. Carter appears on 11 of the 16 tracks on the Album. However, despite past agreements and established practice of the Band, Carter received only 11/16^{ths} of his agreed 20 percent of the royalties and was expensed again for phantom "management fees."

23. Carter continues to receive recording royalties improperly expensed by management fees. Carter continues to receive royalties from the Album improperly reduced to 11/16th, of the amount to which he is entitled and improperly expensed by management fees.

Count I
Breach of Contract

24. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 23 and incorporates them herein by reference.

25. IPI has breached its contract with Carter by paying royalties on a per-song appearance basis rather than the agreed and customary album appearance basis for the Album.

26. IPI has breached its contract, as supplemented by the parties, with Carter by reducing Carter's share of royalty payments for Band management services he no longer receives since he was released from the Band.

WHEREFORE, Carter demands judgment in excess of \$75,000 in an exact amount to be proved at trial.

Count II
Accounting

27. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 26 and incorporates them herein by reference.

28. Since Carter was released from the Band in March 2003, he has not had access to the financial information of either IPI or GTDI to ascertain whether his share of royalty payments is accurate.

29. Upon information and belief, the Band has not paid Carter all royalties from recordings, royalties from merchandising, and revenues from touring for which he is entitled since he was released from the Band.

30. Carter demands an accounting from both IPI and GTDI for his agreed 20 percent share of all recording revenue received by IPI and GTDI, his agreed 20 percent share of touring revenue from GTDI, his agreed 16 percent of merchandising revenue and compensation for the goodwill he helped create with the Band.

Count III
Declaratory Judgment

31. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 30 and incorporates them herein by reference.

32. Carter is not and has never been in material breach of his agreement with IPI.

33. The terms of Carter's agreement with IPI are in dispute with respect to the way royalties will be computed, i.e., per track appearance or per album appearance, as well as Carter's liability for management fees for services he no longer receives.

34. There is an actual case or controversy regarding these issues.

35. Carter is entitled to a declaration that he shall receive royalties of 20 percent for each Band record he appears on irrespective of the number of tracks he performs vis-à-vis the album in issue and a declaration that his share of royalties, since June 2003, shall not contain any deductions for management services and that he shall be afforded reasonable auditing rights for royalties received by IPI.

Count IV
Declaratory Judgment

36. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 35 and incorporates them herein by reference.

37. Carter is not and has never been in material breach of his agreement with GTDI.

38. Carter is entitled to a declaration that he shall receive 20 percent of touring revenues generated by the Band and a declaration that his share of those revenues, since July 2003, shall not contain any deductions for management services and that he shall be afforded reasonable auditing rights for revenues received by GTDI.

Count V
Declaratory Judgment

39. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 38 and incorporates them herein by reference.

40. During Carter's tenure with the Band, he significantly contributed to the good will developed in the Band's live performances and contributed to the Band's live performance revenue's exponential increase.

41. As a result of the goodwill Carter helped build up with GTDI, the touring corporation for the Band, GTDI has been able to merchandize tee-shirts and other souvenirs at concerts. Prior to his release from the Band, Carter received 16 percent of merchandizing revenue.

42. There is an actual dispute with respect to Carter's entitlement to an ongoing percentage of merchandizing revenue as a result of his equity position in GTDI and his contribution over two decades to the goodwill now enjoyed by GTDI.

Count VI

43. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 42 and incorporates them herein by reference.

44. On September 1, 2002, the Band signed a recording contract with Eagle Records (the "Recording Agreement").

45. Carter is named as an individual bound by the terms of the Recording Agreement which provides, *inter alia*, that Carter may not record for any reason until the Band's obligations to Eagle under the contract are satisfied.

46. The Band has not released Carter from the Recording Agreement and Carter has been unable to earn a living as a musician as a result of the Band's refusal.

47. The Band has breached, *inter alia*, the covenant of good faith and fair dealing by refusing to release Carter from the Recording Agreement.

48. As a party bound by the Recording Agreement, Carter is entitled to a 20 percent share of the net proceeds of royalties received from all Eagle recordings even though he does not appear on albums which were recorded subsequent to his termination from the Band, and damages for earnings and profits lost due to the Band's failure, due to bad faith, to release Carter from the Recording Agreement.

WHEREFORE,

As to Count I of the Complaint, Plaintiff Henry G. Carter respectfully demands judgment in his favor and against Defendant Independent Productions, Inc. in excess of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars in an exact amount to be proved at trial, plus interest, penalties, attorneys' fees, costs of this action, and all other relief that the Court deems just and proper.

As to Count II of the Complaint, Plaintiff Henry G. Carter demands an accounting for his agreed 20 percent share of all recording revenue received by IPI and GTDI since June 2003.

As to Count III of the Complaint, Plaintiff Henry G. Carter demands a declaration that he shall receive ongoing royalties of 20 percent for each Band record on which he appears, regardless of the number of tracks he performs on the album in issue, a declaration that his share of revenue from June 2003 on, shall not contain any deductions for management services, a declara-

tion of the value of the goodwill Carter created for the Band, and a declaration that he shall be afforded reasonable auditing rights for royalties received.

As to Count IV of the Complaint, Plaintiff Henry G. Carter demands a declaration that he shall receive 20 percent of ongoing revenues attributable to touring operations of the Band from July 2003 on by virtue of his ongoing equity interest in GTDI, a declaration that his share of such revenues from June 2003 on, shall not contain any deductions for management services and that he shall be afforded reasonable auditing rights for revenues received.

As to Count V of the Complaint, Plaintiff Henry G. Carter demands entitlement to an ongoing percentage of merchandizing revenue as a result of his contribution over two decades to the goodwill enjoyed by George Thorogood & The Destroyers, Inc., enabling GTDI readily to sell merchandise at its live performances.

As to Count VI of the Complaint, Plaintiff Henry G. Carter demands a declaration that he shall receive an ongoing 20 percent share of the net proceeds of royalties received from all Eagle recordings which were recorded subsequent to his termination from the Band, and damages for losses due to the Band's bad faith failure to release Carter from the Recording Agreement.

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

/s/ James D. Heisman

Charles J. Durante (# 800)
James D. Heisman (# 2746)
1007 N. Orange Street
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Wilmington, DE 19899
(302) 658-9141
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Dated: June 30, 1996

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS**HENRY CARTER**

(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) **New Castle**

DEFENDANTS

**INDEPENDENT PRODUCTIONS, INC.
GEORGE THOROGOOD AND THE DESTROYERS,
INC.**

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED DEFENDANT: **Chester County**
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION
OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

(c) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)

**Charles J. Durante (# 800)
James D. Heisman (# 2746)
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1007 N. Orange Street, P.O. Box 2207
Wilmington, Delaware 19899 Telephone: (302) 658-9141**

ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☐ 3 Federal Question
(U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☐ 4 Diversity
(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX FOR PLAINTIFF AND ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT)

	PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF
Citizen of This State	X 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4	<input type="checkbox"/> 4
Citizen of Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	X 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5	<input type="checkbox"/> 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6	<input type="checkbox"/> 6

IV. ORIGIN

(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- X 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened
- Transferred from ☐ 5 another district (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation ☐ 7 Magistrate Judgment

V. NATURE OF SUIT

(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders Suits <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce/CC Rates/et <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced ar Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/ Commodities Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/ Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITIONS <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence HABEAS CORPUS: <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws <input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck <input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs. <input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor Mgmt Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor Mgmt Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Labor Railway Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS - Third Party 26 USC 7609

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

(CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE.
DO NOT CITE JURISDICTIONAL STATUTES UNLESS DIVERSITY.)

Breach of contract, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a)

VII. REQUESTED IN

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION

DEMAND: In excess of \$75,000.00

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

COMPLAINT:☐ UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

JURY DEMAND:

X YES

☐ NO**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY**

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

06-30-06

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

AO FORM 85 RECEIPT (REV. 9/04)

United States District Court for the District of Delaware

Civil Action No. 06 - 419

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF RECEIPT FOR AO FORM 85

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF _____ COPIES OF AO FORM 85.

6/30/06
(Date forms issued)

Shane Handlin
(Signature of Party or their Representative)

Shane Handlin
(Printed name of Party or their Representative)

Note: Completed receipt will be filed in the Civil Action